

Community Meeting Announcement

Date: Tuesday, January 26th

Time: 6pm

Location: Dayton's Bluff
Recreation Center Theatre Room

800 Conway Street

St. Paul, MN 55106

City of Saint Paul
Department of Parks and Recreation–
Forestry Unit
1120 Hamline Ave N
Saint Paul, MN 55108
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City of Saint Paul



Emerald Ash Borer Management Program

Dear Owner/Current Resident,

As you may know, emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic pest which kills all species of ash native to Minnesota, was discovered in Saint Paul's South Saint Anthony neighborhood in May 2009. This was the first discovery of the pest in Minnesota and it marks a new era for the urban forest in our city.

The City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks & Recreation/Forestry, in conjunction with the MN Dept. of Agriculture, began aggressively managing the pest in the known area of infestation as well as creating a citywide EAB Management Plan.

As proven in Michigan and Ohio, eradication of this pest is not a possible management tool. The current standard for EAB management is one of "slowing the spread", a strategy including multiple tools, one of which is the reduction of current ash populations.

Following this standard, the City included in the management plan a "structured removal" process which will reduce the large, publicly owned ash population beginning with declining trees over a number of years followed by replacement with new trees of a variety of species.

Through funding made available by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the City of Saint Paul, the removal of up to 1,100 declining ash trees throughout the city will begin this February. One to three block stretches of declining ash trees were chosen for the structured removal process citywide. Please see the FAQ's for more information.

To find out if your street will be affected by these removals please visit the Forestry EAB website listed below. Maps will be available in pdf version on this page:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=2495>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q. Why did you pick these blocks for removals?

A. The ash trees on these blocks are declining from other non-EAB-related symptoms (drought, construction injury...)

Q. Is this a special assessment--will I be billed for it?

A. No, you will not get an extra bill or assessment for this work. Funding as stated above will cover the removal, stump removal and replanting costs.

Q. Why are you removing live trees?

A. While the ash trees on these streets are still alive they are in a state of decline that will not be reversed. Declining ash trees in St. Paul will be removed more aggressively in coming years due to the existence and inevitability of EAB spread.

A. An estimated 30% of Saint Paul's urban forest is composed of ash trees—a number that is much too high. The removal of these trees will only account for a small percentage of the total ash population.

A. Delaying Saint Paul's effort to begin managing the ash tree population potentially threatens not only the region but the entire state with an estimated 937 million ash trees.

Q. Why can't you wait for our trees to die before removing them?

A. If delayed until the trees are dead there will be no guarantee as to the timeliness of tree and stump removal, and replanting of replacement trees. It is all dependent upon future budgets, which cannot realistically be forecasted.

Q. Why not save the trees with insecticide treatments?

A. The city may use EAB pesticides in the future to treat a small percentage of select specimen ash trees on case-by-case basis, however, none of the trees on these streets warrant the annual or biannual expense of such treatment.

Q. If this is about EAB, then why aren't you removing trees where you know it is?

A. EAB infested ash trees are promptly removed and will continue to be removed as they are identified.

A. Leaving live ash trees in the infested South St. Anthony neighborhood is a strategy to contain EAB in a small area. Ash trees provide food and breeding grounds for EAB—if all are removed the EAB will travel further for that habitat.

A. Other strategies to control the spread of EAB from the known infested area for as long a time as possible are being utilized.

January 26th Community Meeting Location

